

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

AZVINE et al

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April 4, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

A1

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second communications is either one of an email or a telephone call.

A2

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the categorising means includes a Bayes net.

A3

9. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for automatic message transmission, such that when a communication is received from a sender that has been identified for automatic message transmission, a predetermined message is automatically returned in response to the communication.